

DELL
Movie
Classic

NO. 1036
Stm 10¢

THE BIG CIRCUS



The biggest
show in
the world!

PROD. BY THE DELL PUBLISHING CO., INC.
PRINTED IN U.S.A. BY THE DELL PUBLISHING CO., INC.

ALLIED ARTISTS
Presents

VICTOR MATURE REO BUTTONS

RHONDA FLEMING

in

IRWIN ALLEN'S

Production of

"THE BIG CIRCUS"

KATHRYN GRANT VINCENT PRICE

PETER LORRE OAVIO NELSON

And Co-Starring

GILBERT ROLAND

as the Aerialist

In CINEMASCOPE® and TECHNICOLOR®

Produced by Irwin Allen

Directed by Joseph M. Newman

Screenplay by Irwin Allen, Charles Bennett, and Irving Wallace

Based on a story by Irwin Allen



Whirling's big circus gets into ruinous financial difficulties . . .



And enlists the aid of a bonker and a girl publicist.



The show continues to be mysteriously plagued with disasters . . .



And everyone in the circus becomes a suspect.



But an act of heroism again brings fame and security to the big top.

THE BIG CIRCUS

ONE MORNING, ON ONE OF NEW YORK CITY'S BUSIEST STREETS, HENRY JASPER WHIRLING ARRIVES IN FRONT OF A LARGE AND STATELY BANKING INSTITUTION...

WELL HERE! KEEP THE MUSIC GOING! THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG!

GOOD LUCK, BOSS!

J. T.
NELSON
& Co.

LOOK AT THAT,
WILL YOU! CRAZIEST
SIGHT I'VE EVER SEEN!
IT'S A CIRCUS WAGON!

WHIRLING'S
CIRCUS
SHOW

I'M SORRY
SIR... YOU
CAN'T GO
IN

HENRY JASPER
WHIRLING TO SEE
J. T. NELSON!

GOOD MORNING
GENTLEMEN:
WHICH ONE OF
YOU IS MR.
NELSON?

I AM! AND JUDGING
BY YOUR UNUSUAL
ENTRANCE YOU ARE
MR. WHIRLING!

THE BIG CIRCUS, No. 1036. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 750 Third Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. George T. Delacorte, Jr., Publisher; Helen Meyer, President; Paul R. Lilly, Executive Vice-President; Harold Clark, Vice-Pres.-Advertising Director; Albert P. Delacorte, Treasurer. All rights reserved throughout the world. Authorized edition. Based on the movie "The Big Circus." Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Copyright © 1954 by Saratoga Productions, Inc.

This periodical shall be sold only through authorized dealers. Sales of mutilated copies or copies without covers, and distribution of this periodical for premiums, advertising, or giveaways, are strictly forbidden.

THAT'S RIGHT! HANK WHIRLING, OWNER OF THE BIGGEST SHOW ON EARTH! NOW SUPPOSE WE GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS ON THE LOAN I ASKED FOR!

WE'VE DISCUSSED IT AT LENGTH, MR. WHIRLING...

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PREVIOUSLY COMBINED CIRCUSES OF "WHIRLING AND BORMAN" HAVE NOW BECOME INDEPENDENT SHOWS, AND THAT YOUR CIRCUS IS NOW IN WINTER QUARTERS IN CALIFORNIA, READY FOR TOURING IN A WEEK!



THAT'S ABOUT IT, BOYS! BUT WHY ALL THE FUSS? IT'S ONLY HALF A MILLION!

WE'RE PREPARED TO LOAN YOU THE MONEY, WHIRLING... BUT UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS...



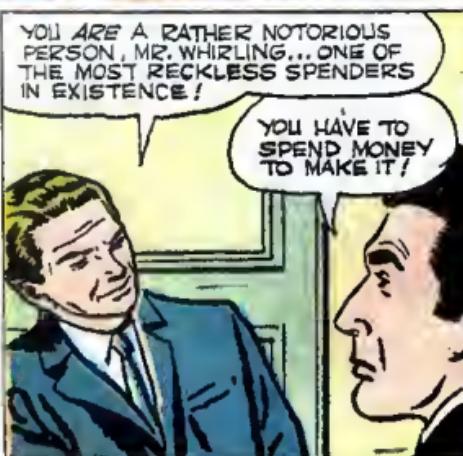
RANDOLPH SHERMAN, OUR LOAN OFFICER, ADVISED STRONGLY AGAINST THIS LOAN! WE OVERRULED HIS OBJECTIONS, BUT AS A GUARDIAN OF OUR INVESTMENT, WE'RE SENDING HIM ALONG WITH YOU!

WHAT???



YOU ARE A RATHER NOTORIOUS PERSON, MR. WHIRLING... ONE OF THE MOST RECKLESS SPENDERS IN EXISTENCE!

YOU HAVE TO SPEND MONEY TO MAKE IT!



PERHAPS... BUT THIS TIME I WILL HELP YOU MAKE THE DECISIONS ON HOW IT WILL BE SPENT. MY BAGS ARE PACKED AND I'M READY TO LEAVE!

I HAVE A FEELING I'M GOING TO HAVE BIG TROUBLE WITH THIS BANKER FELLOW



A FEW DAYS LATER, AT WHIRLING'S WINTER QUARTERS IN CALIFORNIA...

THERE IT IS, SHERMAN!
THE BIGGEST SHOW ON EARTH!
AND IT'S ALL MINE!

SUBJECT TO
CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS,
MR. WHIRLING...



A TEMPORARY
CONDITION I'D
LIKE TO FORGET!

I SEE YOUR
CLOWN HAS
ALREADY MET
MISS HARRISON!



MISS HARRISON?
WHO'S SHE?
YOUR NEW PRESS
AGENT, MR. WHIRLING!
MR. SHERMAN HIRED
ME! I ARRIVED THIS
MORNING WITH SOME
OF YOUR PERFORMERS!



A WOMAN PRESS AGENT!
I WON'T HAVE IT! NO
FEMALE HAS EVER
PUBLICIZED MY CIRCUS!
ANYWAY, I DO THE
HIRING AROUND HERE!

IM AFRAID IT'S
OUT OF YOUR
HANDS, MR.
WHIRLING! THE
BANK AUTHORIZED
ME TO ENGAGE
MISS HARRISON...
SHE'S THE BEST
AVAILABLE!



WOULD YOU
LIKE TO
SHOW ME
AROUND
NOW?

NOT NOW! I'VE
GOT AUDITIONS
AND REHEARSALS
... UNLESS YOU'RE
GOING TO HANDLE
THAT, TOO!



THE CLOWN, SKEETER, OFFERS TO SHOW RANDY SHERMAN AROUND THE CIRCUS...

THE RINGMASTER IS HANS HAGENFELD! HE'S THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS!

I'D NEVER REALIZED THERE WAS SO MUCH TO A CIRCUS!



THOSE ARE THE FLYING COLINOS... ZACH AND MAMA COLINO, AND TOMMY GORDON, THE "CATCHER"...

MAKES ME DIZZY JUST WATCHING THEM!



HANS, MEET RANDY SHERMAN!

GLAD TO KNOW YOU, MR. SHERMAN! WHAT'S YOUR ACT?



MR. SHERMAN'S A JUGGLER... OF FIGURES!

AND SPEAKING OF THAT, I'D BETTER GET TO WORK... THERE'S A LOT OF PAPERWORK IN GETTING THINGS SET UP!



A FEW DAYS LATER...

I'VE HAD IT, RANDY! THESE LAST THREE DAYS HAVE CONVINCED ME WHY THE CIRCUS IS A DYING INSTITUTION!

WHAT'S WRONG?



EVERYTHING! HOW CAN I HANDLE PUBLICITY FOR WHIRLING WHEN HE DOES IT FOR ME? EVERYTHING I TRY TO DO THAT'S CONSTRUCTIVE OR TASTEFUL, HE TRAMPLES ON!

EASY NOW, HELEN... CALM DOWN...

OH EXCUSE ME... I... I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE WITH SOMEONE MR. SHERMAN!

COME ON IN! I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE MET...



I'M JEANNIE YOUR NEW SECRETARY—JUST APPOINTED BY HANK WHIRLING! HE WANTS YOU TO OKAY THIS BUDGET!

WHAT BUDGET?

FOR TOMORROW NIGHT'S PRESS PARTY!

THAT DID IT! A PRESS PARTY—AND THE PRESS AGENT DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT!



I'M GOING TO TELL HANK WHIRLING JUST WHAT I THINK OF HIM!

SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S ANGRY...

I DON'T BLAME HER! TWO JUMPS AHEAD OF BANKRUPTCY AND HE'S PLANNING A PARTY. IS WHIRLING COMPLETELY OUT OF HIS MIND?



OF COURSE MAYBE I'M PREJUDICED... YOU SEE, HE'S MY BROTHER!

YOUR BROTHER?

TWO NIGHTS LATER...

MAYBE THIS WASN'T SUCH A BAD IDEA AFTER ALL...

TIME WILL TELL...

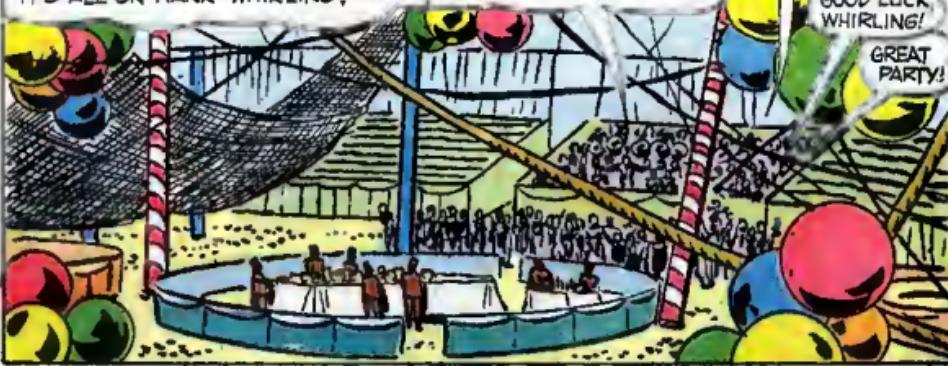


I JUST WANT TO SAY IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU ALL HERE... AND TO HAVE YOU WITH US AT THE BIRTH OF THE NEW WHIRLING CIRCUS! JOIN IN THE FOOD AND DRINK, FRIENDS... IT'S ALL ON HANK WHIRLING!

HURRAYY! THATABOY, HANK!

GOOD LUCK, WHIRLING!

GREAT PARTY!



I TOLD YOU THIS WAS A GREAT IDEA, SHERMAN... JUST LOOK AT THE TURNOUT! SOME BIG NEWSPAPERMEN HERE... GUYS I DIDN'T EVEN INVITE!

BUT THEY WERE INVITED! BY YOUR PRESS AGENT?



YOU MEAN MISS HARRISON GOT THOSE MEN TO COME HERE?

SHE HAS IMPORTANT FRIENDS, MR. WHIRLING! SHE FIGURED IF SHE COULDN'T BEAT YOU SHE'D JOIN YOU!



LATER, AS THE CROWD WATCHES ZACH COLINO ON THE HIGH WIRE...

I MUST BE SEEING THINGS!



A LION! IT MUST HAVE GOTTERN LOOSE!



MR. WHIRLING...
LOOK! I JUST SAW IT

GRAGHHH!



WHIRLING ACTS QUICKLY...

STAND STILL EVERYONE!
DON'T ANYONE MOVE!



SLOWLY, HANK WHIRLING EDGES TOWARD THE LION...

CAN'T SOMEONE SHOOT IT?

THAT WOULD COST YOUR BANK TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, MR. SHERMAN!



SUDDENLY...

GRROWW!



HIGH ABOVE THE ARENA, ZACH COLINO SEES A WAY TO HELP...

I HOPE THIS WORKS!

ZACH SLIDES DOWN THE SLANTING WIRE, STRIKING OUT AT THE NET RELEASE ROPES...



AND SECONDS LATER...

ROLL IN A CAGE!
HOLD THE NET DOWN!



A SHORT TIME LATER...

SOME STUNT, WHIRLING... SCARING WOMEN... ENDANGERING LIVES SO YOUR HIGH WIRE WALKER CAN COP THE FRONT PAGE HEADLINES!

NOW WAIT A MINUTE!
I DIDN'T—



TUCKER'S RIGHT!
THAT STUNT WAS
A PHONY!

LEAVE IT TO
HANK WHIRLING
TO FIGURE OUT A
CHEAP PIECE OF
BALLYHOO LIKE
THIS!



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE!
I'M THE PRESS AGENT HERE — NOT
MR. WHIRLING! WHAT YOU SAW JUST
NOW WAS NOT A STUNT! AND AS FOR
SEEKING HEADLINES, YOU'RE WRONG!
I EARNESTLY BEG YOU NOT TO PRINT
THIS STORY! THE CIRCUS IS A
DISPENSER OF FUN...
NOT FEAR!



HELEN'S WORDS HAVE THE
DESIRED EFFECT...

WELL SAID,
MISS HARRISON!

GUESS I WAS
WRONG! I'M
SORRY, WHIRLING!

THANKS, MISS HARRISON...
BUT DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE
THOSE GUYS WILL KILL
THE STORY?

NO... BUT
THIS WAY NO
ONE WILL CALL
IT A TASTELESS
PUBLICITY STUNT!
BY ASKING THEM
NOT TO PUBLISH
THE STORY,
I GUARANTEED
IT'LL BE IN PRINT!



YOU KNOW... THERE GOES A
SHARP WOMAN! DOGGONED
IF I'M NOT GLAD I
HIRED HER!

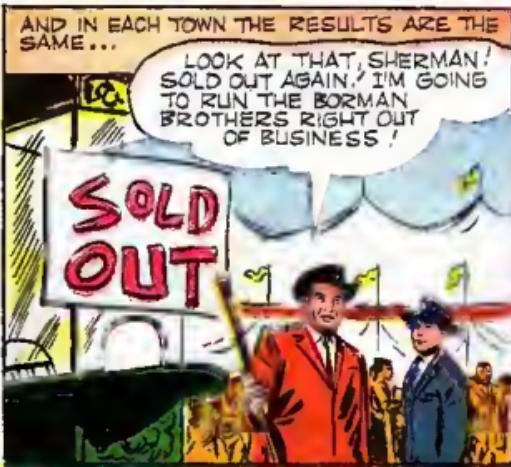
FINALLY, THE WHIRLING CIRCUS STARTS
ITS CROSS-COUNTRY TOUR...



AND IN EACH TOWN THE RESULTS ARE THE
SAME...

LOOK AT THAT, SHERMAN!
SOLD OUT AGAIN! I'M GOING
TO RUN THE BORMAN
BROTHERS RIGHT OUT
OF BUSINESS!

HOWEVER HANK WHIRLING'S
HAPPINESS IS SHORT-LIVED...



IT'S A CANVAS LOADER AND WILL SAVE US A LOT OF COST IN LABORERS, MR. WHIRLING!

I'M NOT GOING TO FIRE GOOD MEN FOR ANY CONTRACTION YOU ORDERED!



IT'S ALL PART OF THE ARRANGEMENTS WE MADE! I'M AUTHORIZED TO —

SAVE THE TALK! THE SOONER I PAY OFF THAT LOAN AND GET YOU OUT OF HERE, THE BETTER I'LL LIKE IT!



THE NEXT EVENING AS THE CIRCUS WRAPS UP FOR THE NEXT MOVE...

I'D LIKE YOUR OKAY TO WRITE A PUBLICITY STORY ON THOSE LOADERS...

SHERMAN'S MACHINES? I TOLD YOU ONCE



WHEEEEE! FIRE ALARM!



SPARKS FROM SHERMAN'S MACHINE CAUGHT THE HAY!

FIRE TRUCK! ON THE DOUBLE! HURRY!

THE BURNING HAY WILL FALL ON THE ANIMAL TENT!



THE BLAZING STACK OF HAY SWAYS DANGEROUSLY...

WE CAN'T GET THOSE ANIMALS OUT IN TIME!

THERE MIGHT BE ONE CHANCE.



WHAT IS HE GOING TO DO?

HANK, COME BACK! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!



HANK WHIRLING DRIVES THE JEEP INTO THE ROARING INFERNO...

HE KNOCKED THE BURNING HAY AWAY FROM THE TENT!

HANK!



NICE WORK, MR. WHIRLING!

THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE NOT HURT!



THIS IS THE END OF IT, SHERMAN! THE WHOLE CIRCUS MIGHT HAVE GONE UP IN FLAMES! TELL YOUR BANK I WANT OUT OF THE DEAL... AND I WANT YOU OUT OF THIS CIRCUS BY MORNING!



YOU'RE BLAMING THE WRONG MAN, HANK! SOMEONE CUT THE BLADES ON SHERMAN'S MACHINE!

WHAT?

TELL MR. WHIRLING WHAT YOU SAW BOYS.

WE SAW THIS GUY WITH A HACKSAW FOOLIN' AROUND THE MACHINE, SIR...



WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING OR WE WOULD HAVE TOLD SOMEONE!

I LOOKED AT THE MACHINE, HANK! THE FRICTION THAT STARTED THOSE SPARKS WAS CAUSED BY THE SAWED BLADES!



WHAT'D THIS MAN LOOK LIKE?

WE JUST SAW HIM FROM THE BACK SIR... HE RAN INTO THE SHADOWS AND WE DIDN'T SEE HIM AGAIN!



FIRST THAT LION GOT LOOSE... NOW THIS!

LOOKS LIKE BORMAN THINKS THERE ISN'T ROOM ON THE ROAD FOR TWO CIRCUSES! BORMAN PAYS HIGH FOR HIS DIRTY WORK... ONE OF HIS HIRED KILLERS COULD BE TRAVELING WITH US RIGHT NOW!



I'M SORRY, SHERMAN... I GUESS I WAS WRONG!

FORGET IT, HANK!



BUT IF BORMAN'S
HIRED SOMEONE
TO DO THIS,
WHO IS IT?

IT COULD BE
ANYONE, SHERMAN!
ANYONE AT ALL!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE
GOING TO STAY,
RANDY! I LIKE...
I MEAN, HANK
NEEDS A MAN
LIKE YOU!

THANKS, JEANNIE...
I... I'M KIND OF FOND
OF THE WHIRLING
FAMILY MYSELF!

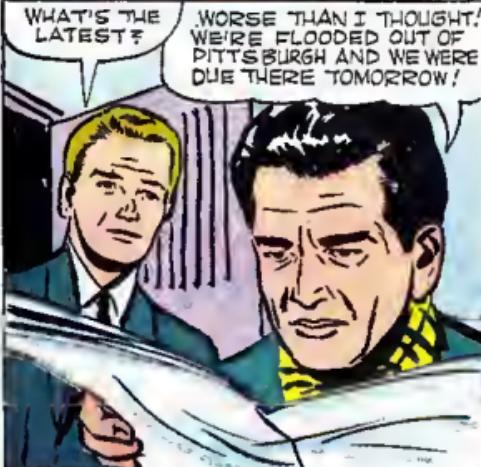


TRouble hits the Whirling
Circus again, but this time
it is no fault of hired
saboteurs...



WHAT'S THE
LATEST?

WORSE THAN I THOUGHT!
WE'RE FLOODED OUT OF
PITTSBURGH AND WE WERE
DUE THERE TOMORROW!



THE BORMAN BROTHERS ARE IN
FLORIDA... PERFECT WEATHER AND
THEY'RE PLAYING TO RECORD
CROWDS!

CAN YOU TAKE SOME
MORE 'BAD NEWS'?



GO AHEAD!
I MIGHT AS
WELL GET IT
ALL AT ONCE!

I RECEIVED A WIRE
FROM THE BANK!
THEY CAN'T GRANT
AN EXTENSION ON THE
LOAN PAYMENT!

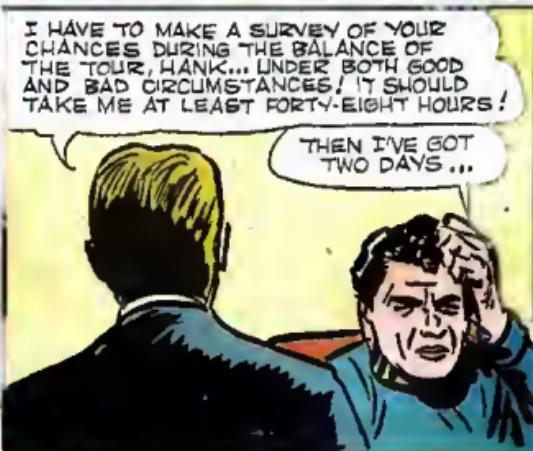
BUT HOW CAN I MAKE THE PAYMENT
WHEN IT DIDN'T EVEN COME INTO THE
BOX OFFICE? WE'VE BEEN FLOODED
OUT OF EVERY TOWN BETWEEN HERE
AND DALLAS... AND MORE AHEAD!

BORMAN MADE AN
OFFER TO BUY YOU
OUT!



NO! I'LL GIVE THIS CIRCUS
AWAY BEFORE I SELL TO
THOSE CUTTHROATS! I
CAN'T SELL OUT!

I HAVE TO MAKE A SURVEY OF YOUR
CHANCES DURING THE BALANCE OF
THE TOUR, HANK... UNDER BOTH GOOD
AND BAD CIRCUMSTANCES! IT SHOULD
TAKE ME AT LEAST FORTY-EIGHT HOURS!



IT MIGHT
TAKE A
MIRACLE
TO SAVE
YOU!

I'M GOING TO MAKE A
MIRACLE, SHERMAN!
I'M GETTING A PLANE TO
NEW YORK AT OUR NEXT
STOP! IF THE WEATHER IS
TOO ROUGH TO FLY, I'LL
HIRE A BIRD!

GOOD LUCK
HANK... AND
I MEAN THAT
WITH ALL MY
HEART!

THANKS, AND FOR
BETTER OR WORSE,
YOU'RE IN CHARGE
OF THE SHOW TILL I
GET BACK! TRY AND
ACT LIKE YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE DOING!



THE NEXT DAY...

NOBODY'LL
COME OUT IN
THIS RAIN! LOOKS
LIKE THE PERFORMANCE
HAS TO BE CANCELLED
AGAIN!



ARE MY EYES GOING
BAD OR IS THAT
JEANNIE UP THERE?

BRAVO,
JEANNIE!



WHAT ON
EARTH ARE
YOU —

SHHH! THIS IS
MY SECRET!



WHENEVER HANK'S AWAY
FROM THE CIRCUS I
PRACTICE WITH THE COLINOS!
ZACH SAYS I'M GOOD ENOUGH
TO PERFORM!

DOES HANK
HAVE ANY
IDEA?



HE'D DISOWN ME IF HE KNEW! BUT I HAVE
TO DO IT, RANDY... MY MOTHER WAS A
FLIER... A FAMOUS ONE... SHE DIED
IN A FALL FROM THE HIGH TRAPEZE!



FLYING HAS BECOME A SORT OF
CHALLENGE AND A SYMBOL TO ME!
ONE DAY I'LL FLY BEFORE A REAL
AUDIENCE... JUST ONCE! THEN
I'LL BE READY TO SETTLE DOWN!



BUT IT'S CRAZY,
JEANNIE... YOU MIGHT
GET HURT! YOU MIGHT—

THEN YOU DO CARE! I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D EVER GET AROUND TO LETTING ME KNOW!



AS THE FORTY-EIGHT HOURS DRAW TO A CLOSE, HANK WHIRLING RETURNS FROM HIS TRIP...

I'VE GOT MY MIRACLE, RANDY! WE'RE GOING INTO NEW YORK!

WE'RE WHAT?



BUT WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE TOUR ALREADY BOOKED!

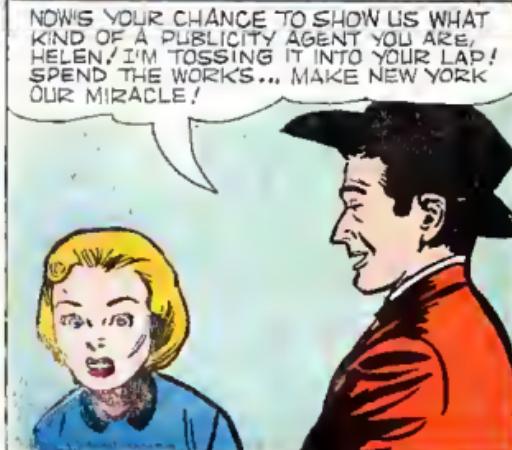
IF THE BANK FORECLOSED, THE TOUR WOULD BE CANCELLED ANYWAY! SO I CANCELLED IT MYSELF! WE'LL GRAB THAT ONE NIGHT STAND IN NIAGARA AND OPEN IN MANHATTAN TWO DAYS LATER!



THE BORMAN CIRCUS GOES INTO MADISON SQUARE GARDEN IN SIX WEEKS! IF WE JUMP INTO A CIRCUS-HUNGRY NEW YORK FIRST, WE COULD CLEAN UP! WE CAN'T GET THE GARDEN, BUT I LINED UP A GOOD SPOT!



NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW US WHAT KIND OF A PUBLICITY AGENT YOU ARE, HELEN! I'M TOSSED IT INTO YOUR LAP! SPEND THE WORKS... MAKE NEW YORK OUR MIRACLE!

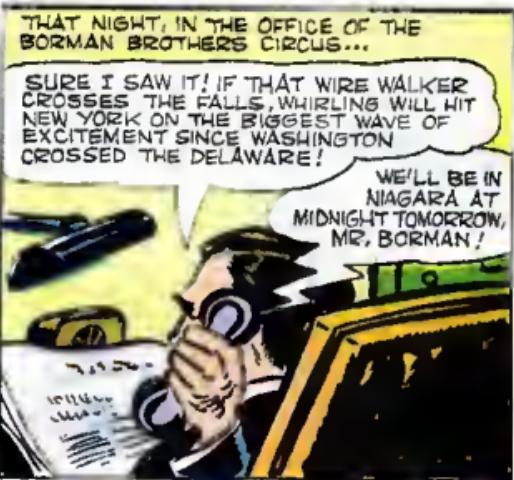


IT JUST MIGHT WORK... IF... IF WE HAD A STUNT...

STUNT?







IT'S UP AHEAD...
I CAN SEE
LIGHTS IN IT... IT
LOOKS LIKE
A FIRE!

BAD NEWS, MR.
WHIRLING... HAPPENED
FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO
... I... I JUST TALKED
TO THE ENGINEER...



TRAIN WRECK...
FOUR CARS IN A
GULLY... TEN
INJURED, TWO
DEAD! IT WAS OUR
TRAIN! THE
OTHER SECTION!

OH,
NO!
WHO
WERE
THEY?



THE LITTLE GIRL SALLY HOOPER
... AND... MAMA COLINO...

MAMA!



AND SHORTLY...

... SO IT SEEMS THAT IT WAS
SABOTAGE, MR. WHIRLING...
SOMEBODY TAMPERED WITH
THAT JOURNEY BOX... WHEEL
DROPPED OFF AND
DERAILLED THE CARS...

HOW LONG
BEFORE
THESE CARS
CAN BE BACK
ON THE
TRACKS?



TRACKS ARE OUT, SIR! GOT TO FIX
'EM FIRST! I'D SAY YOU FOLKS ARE
STUCK HERE THREE DAYS AT LEAST...
COULD GO BY THE ROAD BUT IT'S A
GOOD TWENTY MILES OF MOUNTAIN
TERRAIN!

WE HAVE TO MAKE
NIAGARA! NOW MORE
THAN EVER!



TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO A GUY
NAMED HANNIBAL CROSSED THE ALPS
WITH THE HELP OF FORTY ELEPHANTS!
WHEN IT COMES TO ELEPHANTS, WE'VE
GOT HANNIBAL OUTNUMBERED!
WE'RE CROSSING THAT MOUNTAIN!



LEAVING THE TRAIN, THE WHIRLING CIRCUS MOVES ON THROUGH THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN COUNTRY... A GAUDY, FANTASTIC PROCESSION THAT MOVES SLOWLY AND WITH SADNESS BECAUSE OF THE TRAGEDY IN ITS FAMILY...



BUT THE NEXT DAY THE CIRCUS OPENS ON SCHEDULE IN NIAGARA...

THE BIGGEST HOUSE WE'VE EVER PLAYED TO... NOT AN EMPTY SEAT ANY PLACE! STILL THINK IT WAS TOO BIG A GAMBLE TO SWITCH THE TOUR?

NOT ONLY TOO BIG, BUT TOO COSTLY! TWO DEATHS AND A TRAIN WRECK ARE TOO MUCH TO PAY FOR ANYTHING!

AND NOW... IN THE CENTER RING THE GREATEST CIRCUS PERFORMER OF ALL TIME... IT IS MY GREAT HONOR TO PRESENT... ZACH COLINO!



HOW IS HE, TOMMY? THINK HE'LL MAKE IT?

WHO KNOWS? HE HASN'T SPOKEN A WORD SINCE SHE DIED! FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS HE'S APPEARED IN A CIRCUS WITHOUT MAMA!



TO A CIRCUS PERFORMER, THERE'S NO MEDICINE IN THE WORLD LIKE THOSE CHEERS! I HOPE IT WORKS ON ZACH...



THERE IS AN ELECTRIC EXPECTANCY IN THE AIR AS ZACH STARTS OUT ONTO THE HIGH WIRE...



BUT THEN, THE CROWD SENSES THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE GREAT COLINO...



ZACH SHUDDERS... HIS HAND COMES TO HIS EYES... HE SWAYS ...AND THEN HE IS FALLING... FALLING...



...LANDING IN THE NET BELOW AS GASPS COME FROM THE AUDIENCE...

THAT'S THE END OF IT, RANDY! NOT ONLY OF POOR ZACH BUT OF NIAGARA FALLS... NEW YORK... AND THE WHIRLING CIRCUS! UNLESS...



A FEW MINUTES LATER, IN ZACH'S WAGON...

YOU HEAR ME, ZACH? YOU'RE YELLOW! I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO WALK THE FALLS... YOU VOLUNTEERED!

BUT... I COULD NEVER MAKE IT... I'M... SICK...



SURE YOU ARE! YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM "LOSS OF NERVE"?

YOU SAY THAT TO ME AFTER A FRIENDSHIP OF TWENTY YEARS... TO ME, THE KING OF ALL WIRE WALKERS?



EX-KING, YOU MEAN! WHEN THE STORY HITS THE PAPERS TOMORROW... THAT YOU'RE AFRAID TO WALK THE FALLS... BROTHER, YOU'VE HAD IT!

BUT... MAMA'S DEAD...

EVERYBODY DIES! YOU... ME... MAMA... EVERYBODY! AT LEAST SHE'S SPARED THE SIGHT OF YOU TURNING COWARD AND THE CIRCUS GOING BANKRUPT!

BANKRUPT...?



YES! YOU... ME... AND ALL YOUR FRIENDS... EVERYBODY DOWN THE DRAIN, BECAUSE YOU'RE YELLOW! EVEN MAMA WOULD SAY IT!

*ZACH'S YELLOW!!

NO!



TOMORROW, I'LL WALK YOUR FALLS! FOR MAMA, NOT FOR YOU! IT MAY BE THE LAST TRICK I EVER TRY! IF I SUCCEED, I'LL KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU SAID TONIGHT!



A MOMENT LATER...

OF ALL THE CHEAP FILTHY TRICKS!

EAVESDROPPING, EH?



IT WASN'T NECESSARY!
EVERYONE COULD HEAR
YOU HALF WAY ACROSS
THE LOT!

I GUESS
MY LECTURE
WAS A LITTLE
LOUD!

IS THAT WHAT
YOU CALL IT?
A MAN'S HEART
IS BROKEN...
SO YOU'D DRIVE
HIM TO HIS DEATH
WITH A LECTURE?

YOU DON'T UNDER-
STAND, HELEN...
IT WAS FOR HIS
OWN GOOD!

ZACH FALLING TONIGHT WAS LIKE
SOMEONE BEING IN A PLANE CRASH.
YOU'VE GOT TO FLY AGAIN RIGHT AWAY,
OR YOU'LL NEVER FLY AGAIN. THAT'S
WHY I HAD TO MAKE HIM MAD!

MAD ENOUGH TO
PUSH HIM OUT
OVER NIAGARA
FALLS JUST TO
REGAIN HIS
NERVE? THAT'S
A LIE! YOU DID IT
SO YOUR CIRCUS
WOULD BE A HIT IN
NEW YORK! YOU'RE
DIRTY, GRASPING...

YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND!
ZACH MUST WALK THOSE FALLS!
WITH MAMA GONE HE'D BE LOST IF
HE CAN'T CARRY ON IN HIS WORK!
HE CAN'T LIVE ON IF HE DOESN'T!

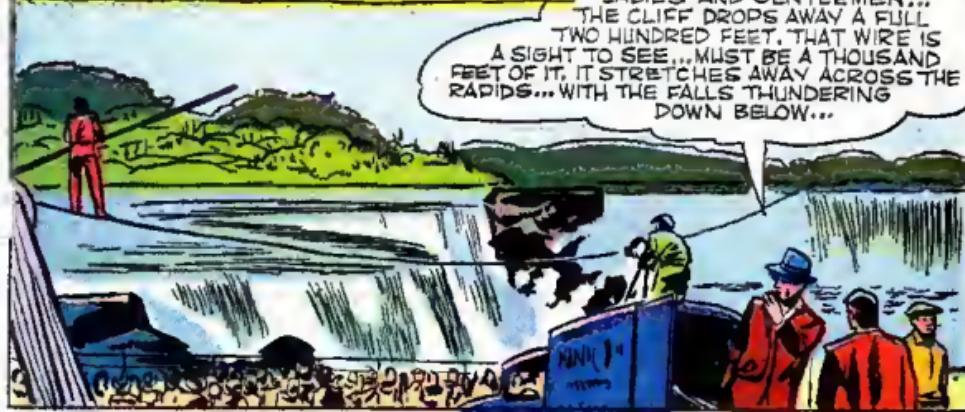
EVEN IF HE DIES TOMORROW, HE'LL
DIE IN GLORY INSTEAD OF LIVING
IN FAILURE! BUT IF ZACH DOESN'T
WALK NIAGARA HE'S DEAD ALREADY!



THE NEXT DAY, AT THE NIAGARA FALLS...

ZACH COLINO'S UP THERE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...

THE CLIFF DROPS AWAY A FULL TWO HUNDRED FEET, THAT WIRE IS A SIGHT TO SEE... MUST BE A THOUSAND FEET OF IT, IT STRETCHES AWAY ACROSS THE RAPIDS... WITH THE FALLS THUNDERING DOWN BELOW...



HANK, HELEN, AND HANS WAIT ON THE CANADIAN SIDE OF THE FALLS...

I... THINK ZACH'S GETTING READY TO START...

OHH... I'M MORE NERVOUS THAN HE IS!



THIS IS IT! ZACH COLINO... THE GREATEST WIRE WALKER IN THE WORLD TODAY... STEPPING OUT ONTO THE WIRE... THE FIRST TIME IN A HUNDRED YEARS ANYONE HAS DARED THE STUNT!



A MOMENT LATER, ZACH STARTS THE TERRIFYING WALK FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE...

GOOD LUCK, ZACH!

HAVE A NICE STROLL! SEE YOU IN CANADA!



ZACH MOVES OUT OVER THE YAWNING CHASM... ADVANCING SLOWLY... BALANCING HIMSELF CAREFULLY...



AND AS THE MOMENTS PASS, HE CONTINUES HIS DANGEROUS JOURNEY ACROSS THE SWAYING WIRE...



BUT THEN, AS HE REACHES THE POINT OF NO RETURN...



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... THIS COULD BE SERIOUS... THE WIND IS BEGINNING TO PICK UP! COLINO IS HAVING A HARD TIME KEEPING HIS BALANCE... BUT... HE'S GOING ON...



ONLY A LITTLE FARTHER... I MUST MAKE IT... I MUST!



THE CROWD GOES WILD AS ZACH REACHES THE CANADIAN SIDE OF THE FALLS...

HE MADE IT!
ZACH COLINO'S MADE IT!

NEW YORK
HERE WE COME!



THE CROWD'S IN AN UPROAR! THE GREATEST FEAT OF ITS KIND IN A HUNDRED YEARS... ACHIEVED BY ZACH COLINO, ONE OF HISTORY'S GREATEST DAREDEVILS!

I SAID I'D WALK THE FALLS AND KILL YOU AFTER IT WAS DONE... BUT OUT THERE IT CAME TO ME... YOU'RE NOT WORTH IT, HANK!

YOU'VE SAVED THE CIRCUS FOR ME, ZACH!



NOT FOR YOU... FOR MY PALS... WHO PUT THEIR MONEY IN YOUR SHOW... WHO DEPEND ON IT FOR THEIR LIVING!

ZACH, YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THIS! HANK HAD A REASON FOR MAKING YOU WALK NIAGARA!

SURE HE HAD... TO PUT HIMSELF ON TOP OF THE WORLD! WELL HE'S WAY UP THERE AGAIN... BECAUSE OF ME

I'M SORRY THAT YOU FEEL THAT WAY, ZACH...



HE... REALLY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, HANK! HE'S ALIVE AGAIN... BUT IT'S YOU WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE!

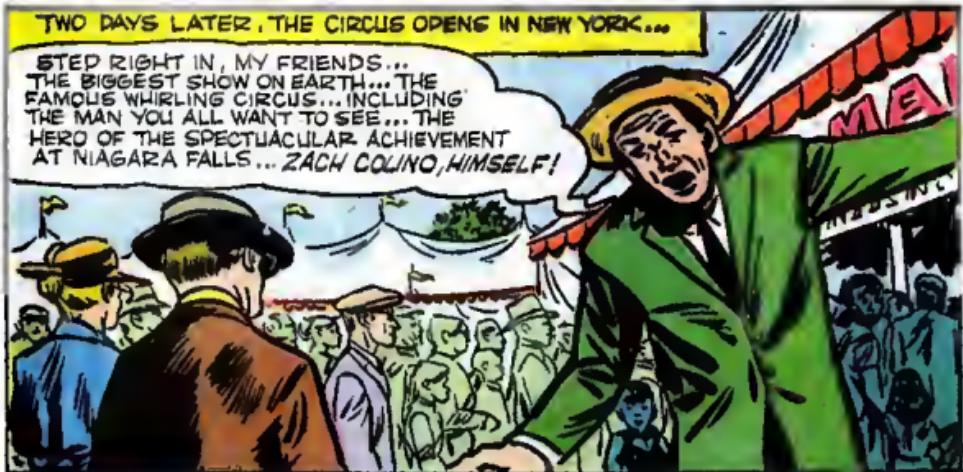
THANKS, HELEN!

I HOPE HE FINDS THE TRUTH SOMEDAY... BUT RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO... IN NEW YORK!



TWO DAYS LATER, THE CIRCUS OPENS IN NEW YORK...

STEP RIGHT IN, MY FRIENDS...
THE BIGGEST SHOW ON EARTH... THE
FAMOUS WHIRLING CIRCUS... INCLUDING
THE MAN YOU ALL WANT TO SEE... THE
HERO OF THE SPECTACULAR ACHIEVEMENT
AT NIAGARA FALLS... ZACH COLINO, HIMSELF!



AND AT THAT MOMENT, IN ZACH'S WAGON...

YOU'RE
WHAT?

YOU HEARD ME RIGHT, RANDY!
TONIGHT I'M TAKING
MAMA'S PLACE...ON THE
HIGH TRAPEZE! I'M
GOING TO FLY!



BUT YOU KNOW
HOW HANK FEELS!
HE WON'T ALLOW
IT!

HE WON'T EVEN
KNOW IT, UNTIL
I'M UP THERE!



BESIDES, WITH
TOMMY CATCHING
ME, I HAVEN'T GOT
A THING TO WORRY
ABOUT! RIGHT,
TOMMY?

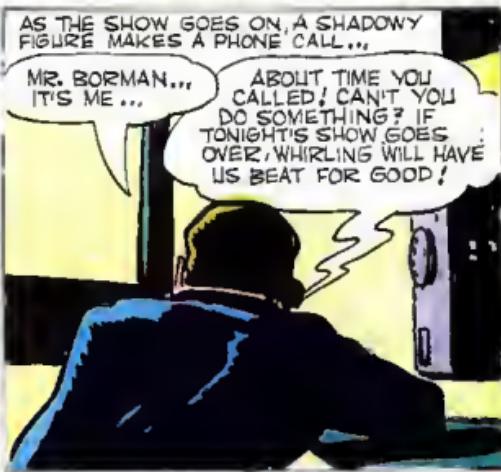
RIGHT, JEANNIE!
I'LL SEE YOU IN
THE BIG TOP
SOON AS I GET
CHANGED!



A FEW MINUTES LATER,
THE SHOW GETS UNDER
WAY...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
CALLING YOUR ATTENTION
TO RING NUMBER TWO...
I PRESENT THE WORLD'S
GREATEST ANIMAL TRAINER,
THE GREAT DANTON TIBERIO!





ZACH, JEANNIE, AND TOMMY BEGIN TO PERFORM THE ACT...



AND AT THAT SAME MOMENT, IN HANK'S WAGON...

THIS WILL BE A SHOCK TO YOU, MR. WHIRLING, BUT A FINGERPRINT CHECK SHOWED US WHO THE MAN IS THAT WRECKED THE TRAIN! THE MURDERER'S BEEN WITH YOU ALL ALONG!

WHO IS HE?



HIS NAME, SIR, IS TOMMY GORDON! TOMMY?... HANK! JEANNIE'S UP THERE WITH HIM... ON THE HIGH TRAPEZE!



JEANNIE! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW...? THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!



THE GROUP REACHES THE BIG TOP, BUT THE ROAR OF THE CROWD AND THE BLARE OF THE BAND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR JEANNIE TO HEAR THEIR FRANTIC CRIES...



JEANNIE SWINGS GRACEFULLY ON THE TRAPEZE, READY TO PERFORM THE DANGEROUS STUNT FOR THE FIRST... AND MAYBE THE LAST TIME...



SHE COMPLETES A MID-AIR SOMERSAULT, REACHES OUT FOR TOMMY'S HANDS...



BUT...

HE MISSED HER! SHE'S FALLING! SHE'LL OVERTHOOOT THE NET!



JEANNIE PLUMMETS DOWNWARD...



ZACH COLINO, SEEING JEANNIE DIVING TO HER DEATH, ALSO DIVES, WITH A SPEED WHICH IS STARTLING...



AND LIKE A CONTROLLED BULLET, ZACH 'SHOULDERS' JEANNIE TOWARD THE SAFETY OF THE NET BELOW...



APPLAUSE SWEETS THE TENT AS THE NEAR FATAL ACCIDENT APPEARS TO THE CROWD TO BE A REHEARSED THRILL...



ZACH! WE JUST LEARNED THAT TOMMY CAUSED THE WRECK THAT KILLED MAMA! HIS MISSING JEANNIE WAS NO ACCIDENT!

WHA....!



BEFORE HANK CAN STOP HIM, ZACH SWINGS UP TOWARD THE TOP OF THE TENT...

NO, ZACH! LET THE POLICE HANDLE IT!



BUT ZACH COLINO IS NOT TO BE RESTRAINED. HE CLIMBS UP AFTER THE KILLER...

I...I THINK ZACH KNOWS! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!



TOMMY SEES THE REVENGE BURNING IN ZACH'S EYES... HE STEPS BACK...



BUT HE STEPS TOO FAR...

AIEEEEE!

AND FALLS TO HIS DEATH...

DON'T LOOK,
HELEN!

OOOHH!



LATER...

WE FOUND A NAME
AND NUMBER IN HIS
POCKET... JULES
BORMAN, MADISON
7651!

LOOKS LIKE MR.
BORMAN WILL HAVE A
LOT OF QUESTIONS
TO ANSWER!



AND I JUST ASKED YOUR
SISTER A QUESTION, TOO,
HANK... AND SHE SAID "YES".
WE'RE GOING TO LIVE IN
CONNECTICUT!

I'VE DECIDED
I DON'T WANT
TO BE A 'FLYER'
AFTER ALL!



GOOD IDEA! BY THE WAY, MISS
HARRISON... COULD THE
WHIRLING CIRCUS INTEREST
YOU IN A NEW IRON-BOUND
CONTRACT... FOR LIFE?

I ACCEPT,
MR. WHIRLING
... WITH
PLEASURE!



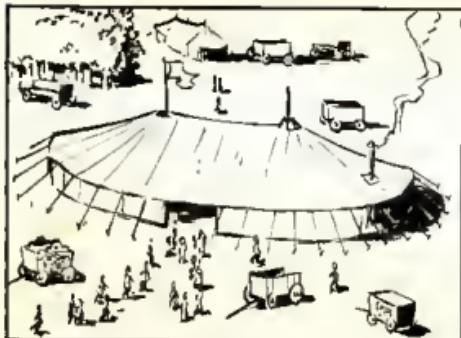
A PLEDGE **DELL** COMIC TO PARENTS

The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" is our only credo and constant goal.

CIRCUS CHOW



Circus men and women work hard and eat heartily. Meals, warmed on modern steam tables, are served under the canvas of the dining tent for performer and laborer alike.



The circus kitchen operates on a tight schedule. A special flag is raised on one of the tent poles when each meal is being served, but after it is lowered, nobody can get a bite to eat.



The dining tent is the first one up after unloading begins in the early dawn of the circus day. Breakfast is served immediately. Lunch is from eleven until twelve, and dinnertime is held from four-thirty to six.



Ponderous animals have ponderous appetites, and a large portion of circus food is hay. It must be kept on hand to feed horses, giraffes, camels, and elephants.



Fresh meat is also purchased to feed the big cats. A full-grown lion or tiger can consume fourteen pounds per day, while the smaller cats, such as leopards, eat less.

BIG-TOP BUFFOONERY



Here come the clowns with their painted faces and colorful costumes. Circus clowns spend many hours thinking up and trying out their gags. When they appear under the big top, their pranks have been rehearsed to perfection.



Some routines, such as the clown fire department and the clown band, require props and several participating clowns. These group acts are called production numbers.



The circus name for clown is "joey." This term came from the nickname of Joseph Grimaldi, a theatrical clown of long ago, about whom Charles Dickens wrote a book.



People often wonder if the constant application of grease paint and make-up is hard on the complexion of a clown. It probably is not, as clowns get a facial beauty treatment every time their make-up is applied.



The circus "joey" may change his costume several times during the course of a performance, but he will never change his face because it is his own personal trademark. No other clown will copy it.